



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release June 30, 1990

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BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCKS DEBUT ON 1990 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP;
SPECIAL CEREMONIES MARK FIRST DAYS OF SALE

A pair of black-bellied whistling ducks in flight at sunrise are pictured on the 1990-1991 Federal Duck Stamp, a first-time appearance for that species.

The new stamp which goes on sale nationwide July 2, will be unveiled during special ceremonies in Washington, DC, June 30 and Bloomington, Minnesota, July 1. It will also be available for sale at these events.

Jim Hautman, the Plymouth, Minnesota artist who won the Interior Department's annual contest to choose the Duck Stamp design, will attend both ceremonies. Now 26, he is the youngest artist ever to win the contest.

"Duck numbers remain lower than we'd like, making the Duck Stamp as important today as ever in its history," said John Turner, director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Duck Stamp sales are the key to the future of our waterfowl resources because the revenue generated goes directly into a fund to buy critical wetland habitat," he said. "Since the sale of the first stamp in 1934, America's waterfowl hunters have enthusiastically supported the program.

But we can all do our part to help preserve American's precious natural heritage by purchasing these beautiful stamps," Turner said.

Hunters 16 years of age or older must carry a current, signed Federal Duck Stamp, formally known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, to hunt waterfowl. The stamp is also popular with nonhunters who want to make a contribution to wetlands conservation, and increasing numbers of stamp collectors who recognize its beauty and value.

Since the program began in 1934, over 350 million Duck Stamp dollars have gone to preserve nearly 4 million acres of wetlands. Many of the more than 440 national wildlife refuges in the United State have been paid for entirely, or in part, through Duck Stamp receipts.

In fiscal year 1989, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired 61,170 wetland acres by obligating \$27.1 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (which includes revenues from Duck Stamp sales), and to date has obligated more than \$13 million to acquire 29,650 acres in fiscal year 1990.

The 1990-1991 Federal Duck Stamp costs \$12.50 and can be purchased at most U.S. post offices, as well as many national wildlife refuges across the country.

July 1 also signals the official opening of the 1990 Federal Duck Stamp contest.



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Facts

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1990-91 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP INFORMATION

First Days of Sale Programs

The first days of sale for the 1990-1991 Federal Duck Stamp designed by Jim Hautman of Plymouth, Minnesota, will be marked with special ceremonies held in Washington, DC, and Bloomington, Minnesota.

Hautman will be at both ceremonies to sign stamps as well as souvenir cards created from his winning painting of a pair of black-bellied whistling ducks. On June 30, Hautman will be in Washington to join officials from the Interior Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Postal Service, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the J.N. "Ding" Darling Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution in events open to the public.

The Washington ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the National Museum of American History's Carmichael Auditorium, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue.

In Minnesota, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, will be the site of the July 1 ceremonies.

Souvenir Cards Also Available

Souvenir cards with the 1990-91 Duck Stamp attached will be available for sale at both ceremonies and by mail. Prices for these special collectors items will range from \$150 to \$18. Proceeds from sales of the Duck Stamp on the card will go into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The remaining money will go to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports wildlife conservation projects.

Of a total of 10,000 cards, 1,750 will bear two first-day-of-sale U.S. Postal Service cancellations. The first cancellation, "Duck Stamp Station," will be made at the

Headsville Post Office, part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. A second cancellation, from Bloomington, Minnesota, will read "Whistling Duck Station."

The first 750 cards will be numbered in gold. Numbers 1-10 will sell for \$150; numbers 11-100 will sell for \$75; and numbers 101-750 will sell for \$50. One thousand unnumbered cards with the two cancellations will sell for \$25 each. Over 8,000 additional mint cards bearing no cancellations will be available for \$18 apiece.

Souvenir cards can be ordered by mail from the Federal Duck Stamp Office prior to and after the July 1 ceremonies. Send a check or money order and a written request for card numbers and desired quantities to: Duck Stamp Souvenir Cards, Federal Duck Stamp Office, Suite 2058, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone: (202) 208-4354.

This Year's Contest Regulations

Regulations governing the annual Duck Stamp contest were revised in 1988 to ensure that all species of North American waterfowl eventually will appear in the Duck Stamp series, thereby increasing its collection appeal.

The species of North American waterfowl that artists can depict for the 1990 contest are limited to the following five:

- (1) Black Scoter
- (2) Spectacled Eider
- (3) Barrow's Goldeneye
- (4) Red-breasted Merganser
- (5) King Eider

The contest opens July 1. All entries must be postmarked no later than midnight September 15, 1990. The Duck Stamp contest judging will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, November 6 and 7, at the Department of the Interior Auditorium, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC. This event is free and open to the public.

The five species were selected from a list of seven which have never before appeared on a Federal Duck Stamp. An attempt was made to select a combination of species whose collective ranges cover the contiguous United States and Alaska.

Through an annual process of elimination established by the regulations, all 42 species of North American waterfowl will become part of the Duck Stamp series by 1997. Copies of this year's Duck Stamp contest regulations can be obtained from: Federal Duck Stamp Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Suite 2058, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone: (202) 208-4354.